

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A covering of a suction hose having a length comprising:
a sleeve positioned around a suction hose and extending at least along a portion of a length of a suction hose, said sleeve having a circumference;
at least one restraint positioned on the sleeve for removably coupling the sleeve to a suction hose; and
means for carrying the sleeve, said means comprising at least one strap sewn to the sleeve in the form of a loop having an opening configured for grasping by the hand of a user, said loop extending at least partially around the circumference of the sleeve.
2. (Currently Amended) The covering of claim 1, wherein the at least one restraint includes at least one of an elastic cord and cord lock, an elastic cuff, a lash, a ~~VELCRO~~TM hook and loop tape strap, a belt having a buckle, a strap having a snap, and at least one tie.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously presented) The covering of claim 1, wherein the at least one restraint comprises two restraints, each of which is positioned at an end of the sleeve.
5. (Original) The covering of claim 1, wherein the restraints are configured to allow the sleeve to be movable along the length of a suction hose.
6. (Original) The covering of claim 1, wherein the sleeve is made of a washable material.
7. (Original) The covering of claim 1, wherein the sleeve is made of nylon or nylon blends.

Claims 8-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The covering of claim 1, wherein the sleeve has a width that is greater than a diameter of the suction hose.

13. (Original) The covering of claim 1, further comprising a storage portion positioned on the sleeve.

14. (Original) The covering of claim 13, wherein the storage portion is at least one of a pocket that is sewn onto the sleeve and a plurality of lashes for lashing an instrument to the sleeve.

15. (Original) The covering of claim 1, wherein the sleeve has a length that extends between a first and a second end of a suction hose.

16. (Original) The covering of claim 1, wherein the sleeve has a length that exceeds the length of a suction hose.

17. (Original) The covering of claim 1, wherein the sleeve includes indicia on an exterior surface thereof.

18. (Original) The covering of claim 17, wherein the indicia is at least one of a logo, a name, a telephone number, and advertising material.

19. (Original) The covering of claim 17, wherein the indicia is positioned on at least one patch that is connected to the sleeve.

20. (Original) The covering of claim 17, wherein the indicia is screen printed, sewn, or painted on the sleeve.

21. (Original) The covering of claim 1, further comprising at least one reflective member positioned on the sleeve.

22. (Original) The covering of claim 21, wherein the reflective member comprises at least one reflective band positioned on the sleeve.

23. (Original) The covering of claim 1, wherein the sleeve comprises a single sheet of material that is sewn along a single seam to form the sleeve for surrounding the suction hose.

24. (Original) The covering of claim 1, wherein the at least one restraint is positioned in the vicinity of at least one end of the sleeve.

25. (Original) A method of advertising comprising:
positioning the covering of claim 17 around a suction hose.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising positioning the suction hose on a vehicle such that the indicia is visible from an exterior of a vehicle.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of transporting a suction hose comprising:
positioning the covering of claim 3 1 around a suction hose;
grasping the at least one strap of the covering; and
transporting the suction hose.

28. (Currently Amended) A covering of a suction hose having a length comprising:
a sleeve positioned around a suction hose and extending at least along a portion of a length of a suction hose;
at least one restraint positioned on the sleeve for removably coupling the sleeve to a suction hose; and
at least one handle formed separate from and coupled to the sleeve, said handle being configured to provide a gap between the handle and sleeve allowing a user's hand to enter the gap and grip the handle, wherein the handle comprises at least one strap that is sewn to the sleeve to form a loop that at least partially surrounds the circumference of the sleeve.

29. (Previously presented) The covering of claim 28, wherein the at least one handle comprises two handles that are positioned on the sleeve, and the two handles are spaced from the ends of the sleeve.

30. (Currently Amended) The covering of claim 28, wherein the at least one handle comprises a strap in the form of a loop separate from the sleeve ~~and positioned at least partially circumferentially around the sleeve~~, said handle being free of the sleeve along part of its length and coupled to the sleeve along another part of its length by a mechanical attachment.

31. (Previously presented) The covering of claim 28, further comprising at least one selectively closeable storage portion formed independent of the sleeve and coupled to the sleeve.

32. (Previously presented) The covering of claim 31, wherein the selectively closeable storage portion is a pocket formed separate from the sleeve and sewn to the sleeve along its perimeter and a plurality of lashes for lashing an instrument to the sleeve.

33. (Previously presented) The covering of claim 1, wherein the sleeve is made of a material that reduces exposure of the suction hose exterior to heat and other contaminants and thereby reduces exterior degradation of the suction hose.